

Woman Slew Taylor to Protect Girl, is New Theory Involving Noted Film Stars



DETECTIVES SEE EARLY SOLUTION IN TAYLOR CASE

Three Theories of Crime Are Now Followed by Detectives in Taylor Case.

LOS ANGELES, May 20.—A dozen detectives from the city police and district attorney's office are still at work on the William Desmond Taylor murder mystery. Elimination of official jealousies and better teamwork are expected to solve the killing of the \$2,000-a-week movie director shot Feb. 1 in his bachelor apartment in Hollywood.

Heretofore, envy, suspicion and dissension have hampered the investigation.

One by one, a score of hot trails have cooled. None of the 25 persons questioned has suggested definitely the key to the case. Half a dozen persons are still under surveillance. No trace of Edward Sands, Taylor's missing former valet, wanted for interrogation, has been found.

Three Theories of Crime Theories have finally narrowed to three:

First: That Taylor was killed by an unidentified soldier of his overseas command because of some wartime altercation. Taylor was a captain in the Canadian forces.

Second: That Sands, accused of wine robbing his employer, and by some investigators believed to be related to Taylor, can reveal the murderer's identity.

Third: That a woman relative of one of the director's girl friends, misinterpreting that friendship, killed Taylor with the idea that she was protecting the girl.

All have circumstantial weight, assert the officers who respectively stress them.

The first and third theories are being exploited by Detectives E. C. King and J. A. Wynn of Dist. Atty. Woolwine's forces; the second has been firmly held from the first by Captain of Detectives David Adams of the city police.

Third Theory The third is purely deductive, based on romantic evidence said to have been confided by Taylor to one of his few confidants and by him related to the police—a situation which was causing the film man intense worry. This theory has never before been publicly stated.

Taylor was shot apparently within a few minutes after he accompanied Mabel Normand, famous screen star, to her car at the curb. Save for the murderer, Miss Normand had been the last to visit him.

Other young screen beauties, including Neta, Jeanette, once his dance, and Mary Miles Minter, all professing high regard for Taylor, gave police little information as to his past.

Against Sands he was inexplicably silent.

Of a Canadian soldier he had said to a fellow officer in London, "There goes a man who swears he'll get me."

"Woman in Disguise?" To another friend he had confided worry over an ardent infatuation. (Continued from page one.)

Taylor, with a young woman. He had told queer tales of his apartment having been invaded by a prowler during his absence.

A haunted man in a haunted house. Reticent, fearful, unmistakably lonely and aloof even among his closest friends. Laid out as if for a blow by the hand that took his life.

As strange a mosaic of fact, conjecture and puzzles as ever challenged detective genius!

That act of arranging the body, the hands, the clothes, the Detective King, "was characteristic of a woman moved to a final show of tenderness after the death shot, fired within an inch of his body."

And then a "funny looking man," swathed in a muffler, walking calm



CHICAGO BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES DECREASE

CHICAGO, May 20.—Dismaying statistics compiled by Health Commissioner Bundeen for the last four months show that Chicago is in a fair way to become a "race suicide" victim. Births for the first four months of 1921 here were 19,448, or 865 more than the 18,583 reported for the first four months of this year.

But the biggest warning to Chicago is contained in the figures for last month, which show only 4,235 births, compared to 5,392 in April, 1921.

During the first four months of 1922, 1,200 less marriage licenses were issued than in the same time for 1921. The number is 2,000 less than for the same length of time in 1920.

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FERRY OPERATES ON GRAND RIVER

Passenger Boat Will Run While Trunk Line 16 is Being Repaired.

MUSKEGON, Mich., May 20.—Tourists traveling the West Michigan Pike this year will have an opportunity to take a ride on an old-fashioned ferry across Grand River. "Mary Ann," as the ferry has been christened, was placed in operation last week by the Grand Haven road commission and will be used this summer, while Trunk Line 16 is being paved between Spring Lake and Denison.

The ferry operates across Grand River at the Bridge street crossing and has accommodation for four automobiles. While detours have been marked out around the paving work, the Ottawa commission advises the use of the Bridge street or Eastmanville route. The ferry cuts considerable distance off the route.

It was first planned to erect a bridge across the river and Grand Rapids offered to donate the old Pearl street bridge, which is being replaced. The property owners objected, however, and so the ferry was placed in operation. Indications are the Spring Lake route will be closed most of the year.

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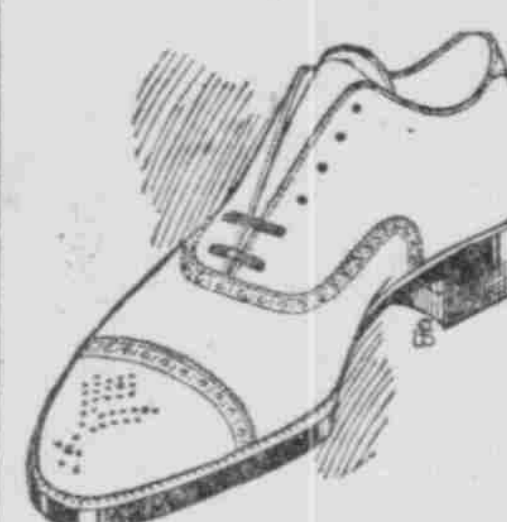
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